Abstract of the Disclosure

A small optical device which has low power consumption and which is excellent for integration, and which has a variable optical attenuation function which features proper polarization dependence over the entire wide variable optical attenuation range is provided. In the optical device, an optical circuit including a core and a cladding that covers the core is formed on a substrate. An optical element is movably disposed inside a groove provided in the substrate so as to traverse the core, and includes a plurality of optical attenuation elements having different light attenuation amounts. By moving the optical element by an actuation function portion provided on the optical circuit, the attenuation amount of signal light that propagates through the optical circuit is changed.